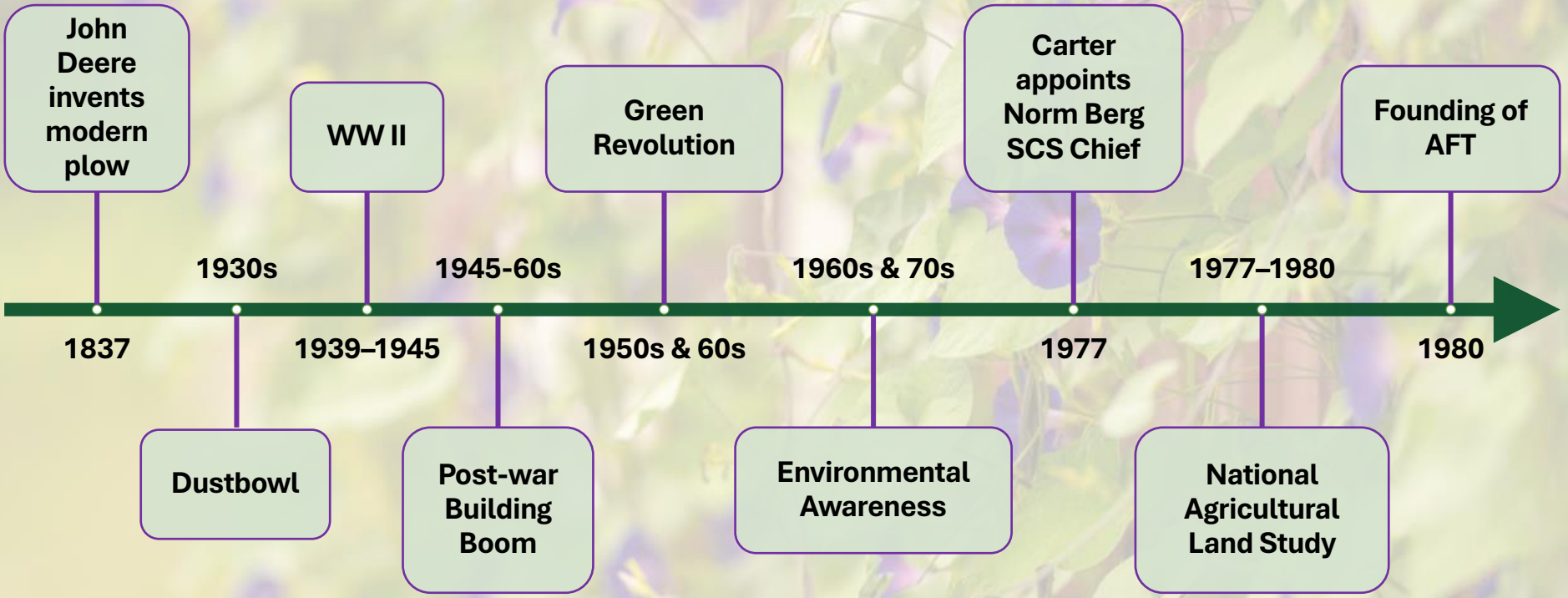

693
No Farms
No Food
American Farmland Trust

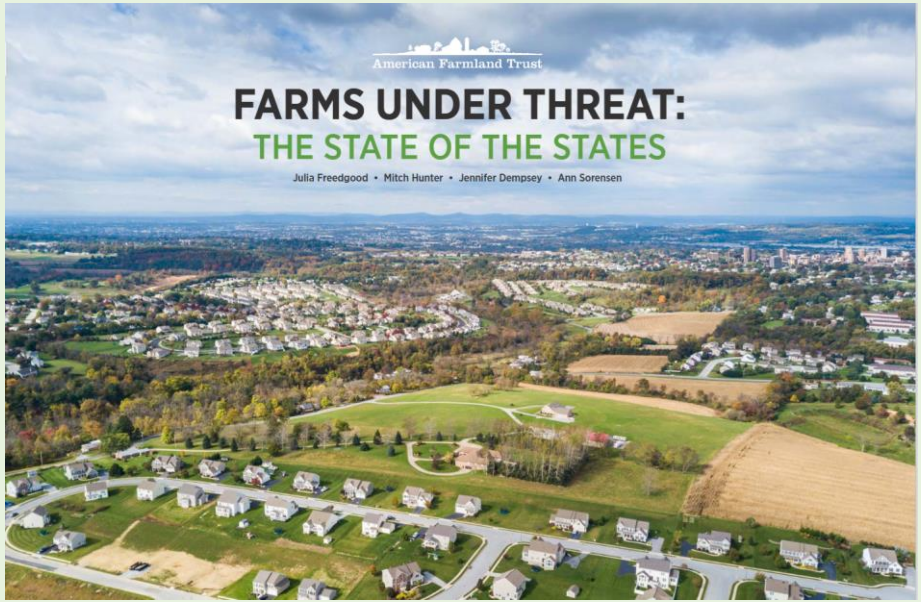
A Brief History



AFT in Conservation Agriculture

- Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)
- First Conservation Title (CRP)
- FRPP and ACEP-ALE
- State & Local PACE Programs (100+)
- Current Use Taxation Programs
- Planning for Ag (inc. COCS studies)
- Agricultural Land Trusts (40+)
- National Agricultural Land Network
- Farmland Information Center
- Direct Services (to producers & others)
- Research (Inc. land use research)

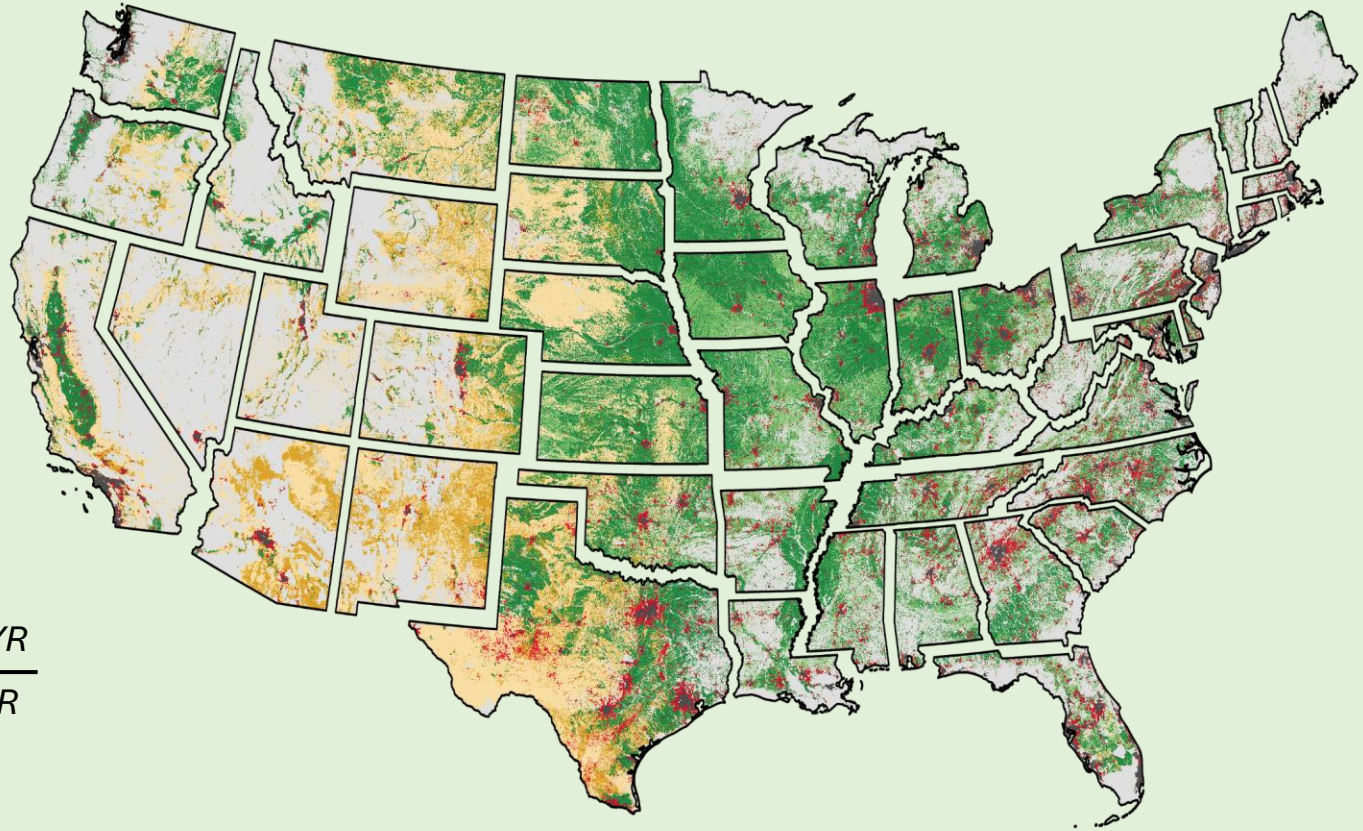
Our Research



State of the States (2020)

Choosing an Abundant Future (2022)

Development Threatens Each State's Best Agricultural Land



What Farms/Ranches Contribute

Food Security & National Security

Economy (GDP, Rural Vitality)

Environment (Ecosystem Services)

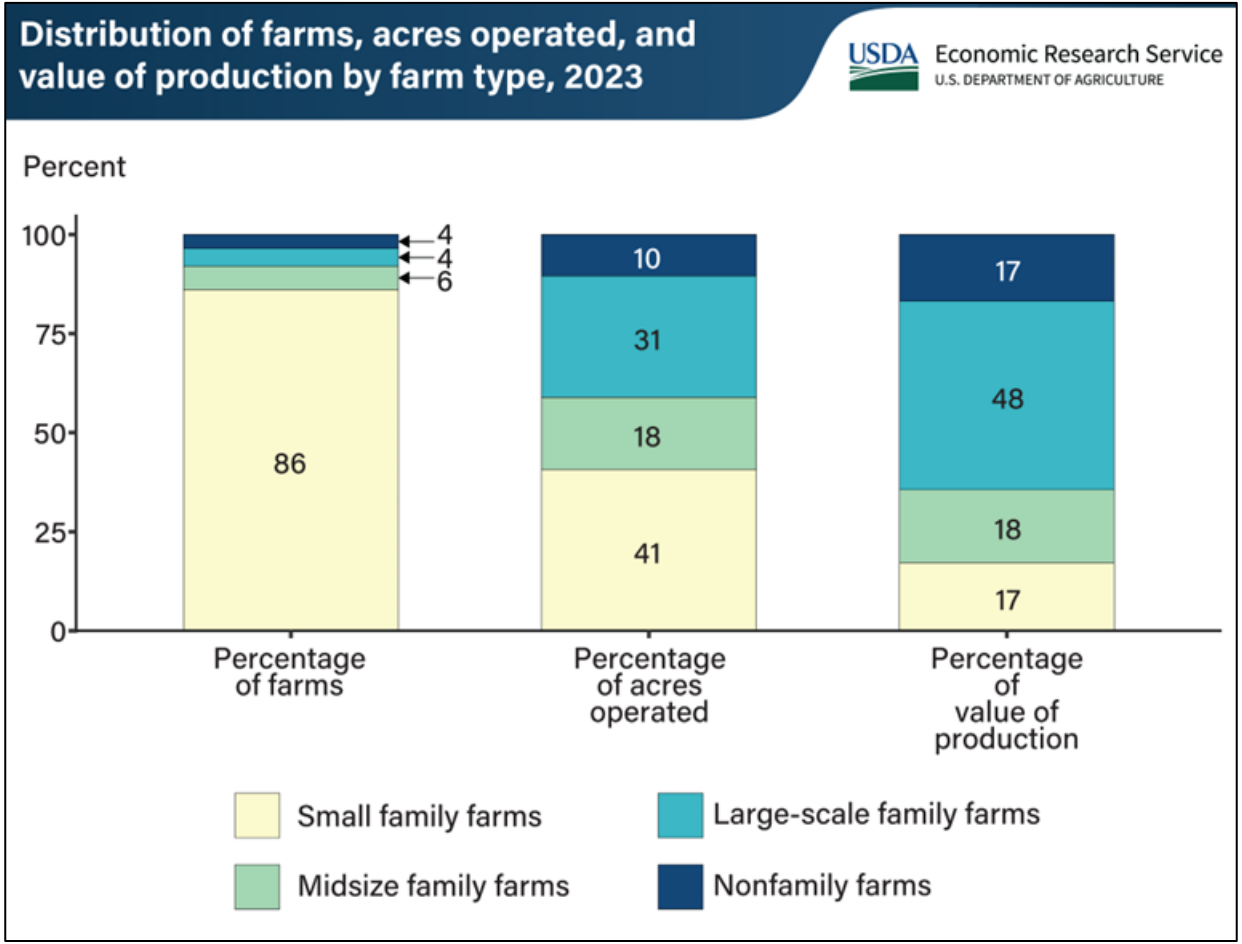
Community & Culture

Where things stand: Successes

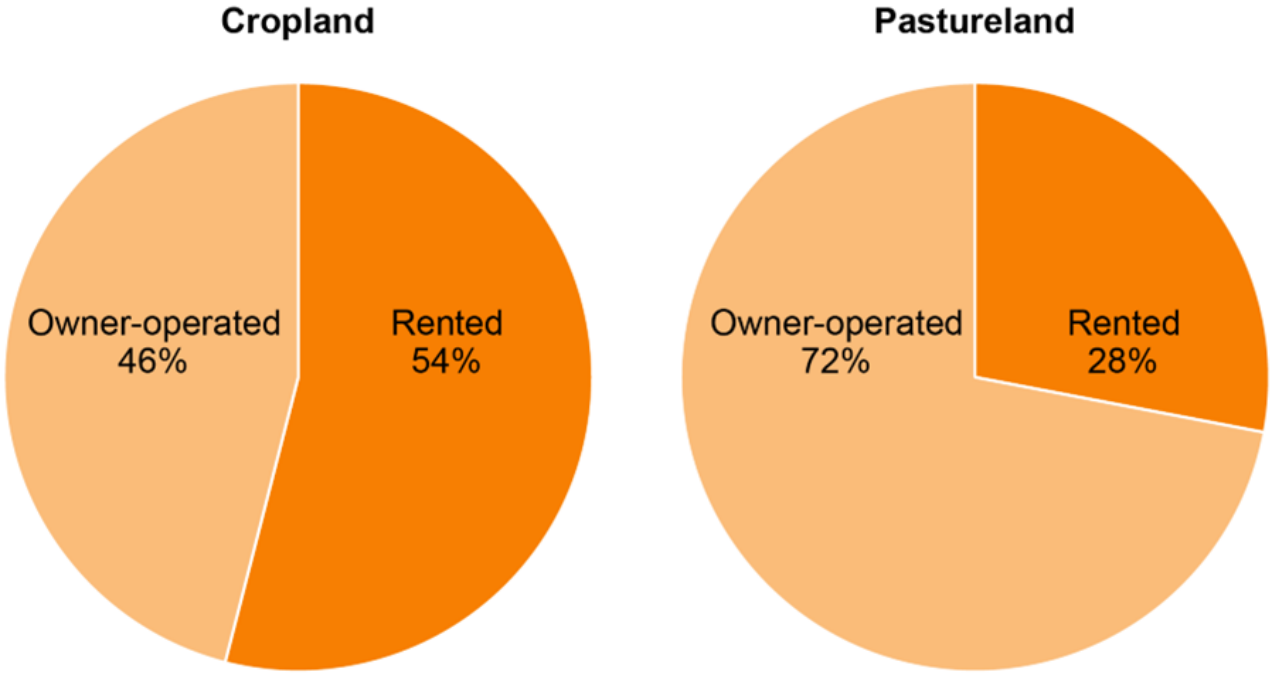
- Conversion Rate
- Permanent Protection
- Farm Productivity
- Conservation Practices
- Public Awareness

Where things stand: Challenges

- Farm Viability
- Rural Communities
- Land Ownership
- Next Generation
- Climate Change
- New Competing Uses
- Conversion Rate


Distribution of farms, acres operated, and value of production by farm type, 2023
USDA Economic Research Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Percent
100
75
50
25
0
4
4
6
86
10
31
18
41
17
48
18
17
Percentage of farms
Percentage of acres operated
Percentage of value of production
Small family farms
Large-scale family farms
Midsize family farms
Nonfamily farms

Ownership of U.S. Cropland and Pastureland, 2014



Note: Data exclude Alaska and Hawaii.
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2014 Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land (TOTAL) survey.

Where things stand: Challenges

- Farm Viability
- Rural Communities
- Land Ownership
- Next Generation
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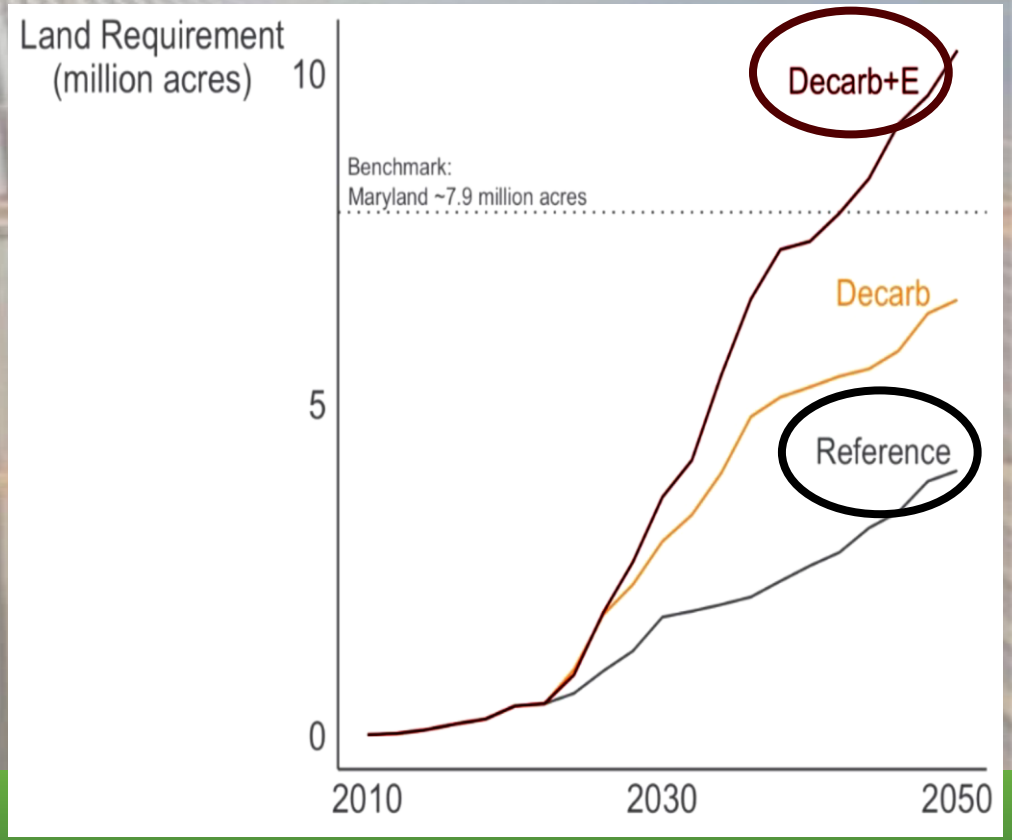
DOE Solar Futures Study

Decarbonizing US Grid:

8-10 Million Acres

90% in Rural Communities



Where things stand: Challenges

- Farm Viability
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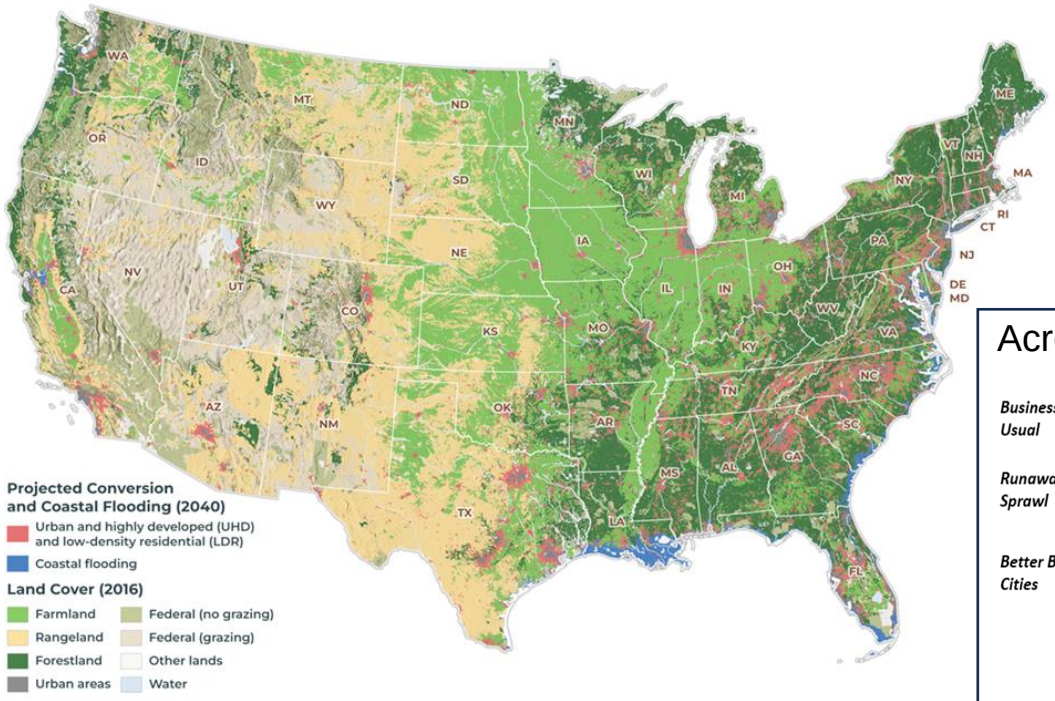
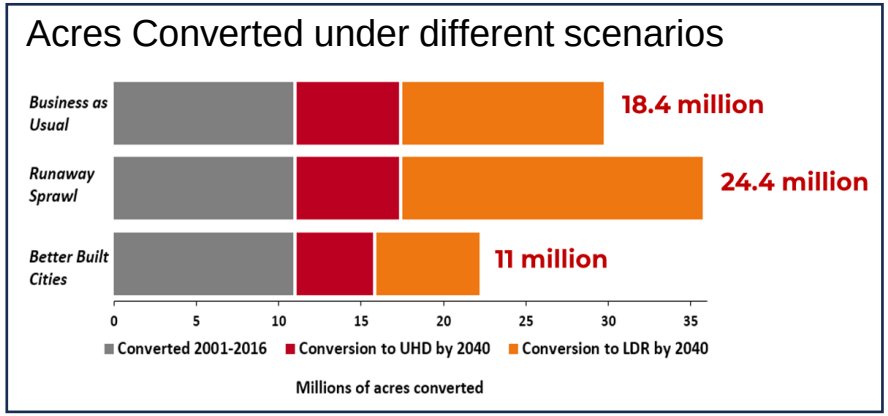
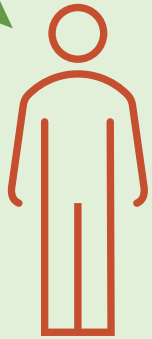
Future Land Conversion is a Major Concern





"We have plenty of land if we just didn't eat meat."

"In the future, we won't need farmland to make food."



"We can increase productivity through new technology."

Top 10 States by Projected Loss by 2040

State	Projected Acres Lost	% of Total Farmland
Texas	2,192,700	1.7
North Carolina	1,197,300	11.6
Tennessee	1,014,600	8.2
Georgia	798,400	6.8
California	797,400	2.3
Florida	620,200	7.4
Virginia	594,100	7.3
Missouri	568,200	2.1
Alabama	545,000	5.6
Pennsylvania	543,800	6.0
Contiguous U.S.	**18,415,000**	**2.0**

Texas: Projections of Land Conversion

On recent trends, from 2016 to 2040:

Texans will pave over, fragment, or compromise

2,192,700 acres

of farmland or ranchland.

That's the equivalent of losing

11,900 farms,

$479 million

in farm output, and

26,200 jobs

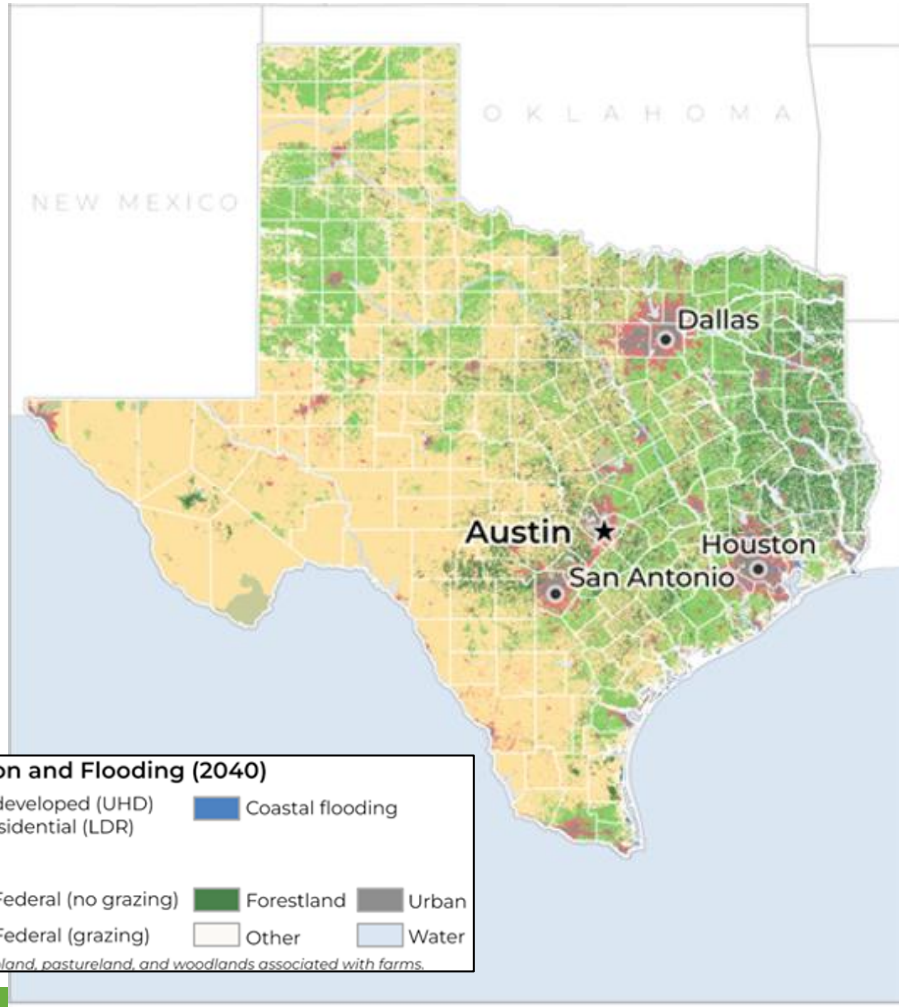
based on county averages.[1]

73% of the conversion will occur on Texas's best land.[2]

Hardest-hit counties:

- **Bexar**
- **Harris**
- **Tarrant**

[1] Census of Agriculture 2017
[2] Freedgood et al. 2020



Projected agricultural land conversion from 2016-2040 in the Business as Usual scenario.

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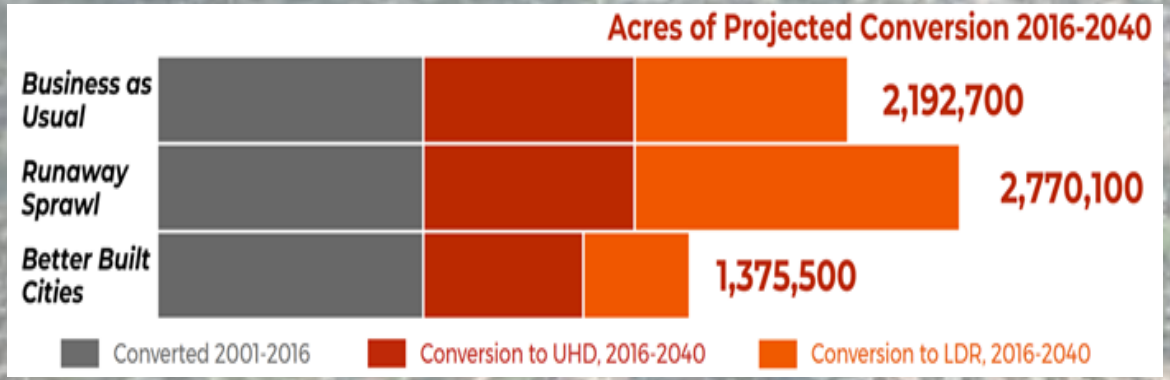


DEVELOPMENT CHOICES MATTER

By choosing the *Better Built Cities* scenario instead of *Runaway Sprawl*, Texans can save

1,394,500 acres

of farmland and ranchland.

That's the equivalent of saving

7,400 farms,

$311 million

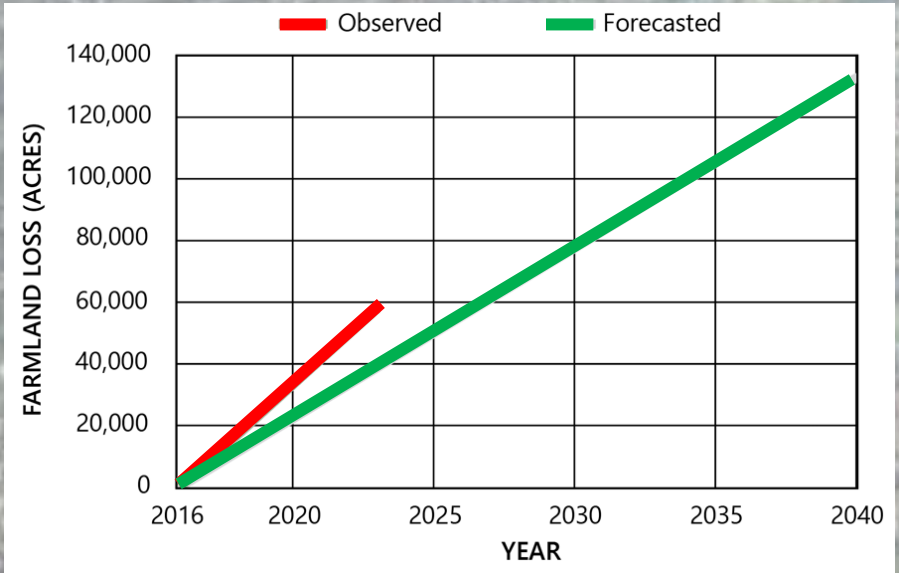
in farm output, and

16,500 jobs

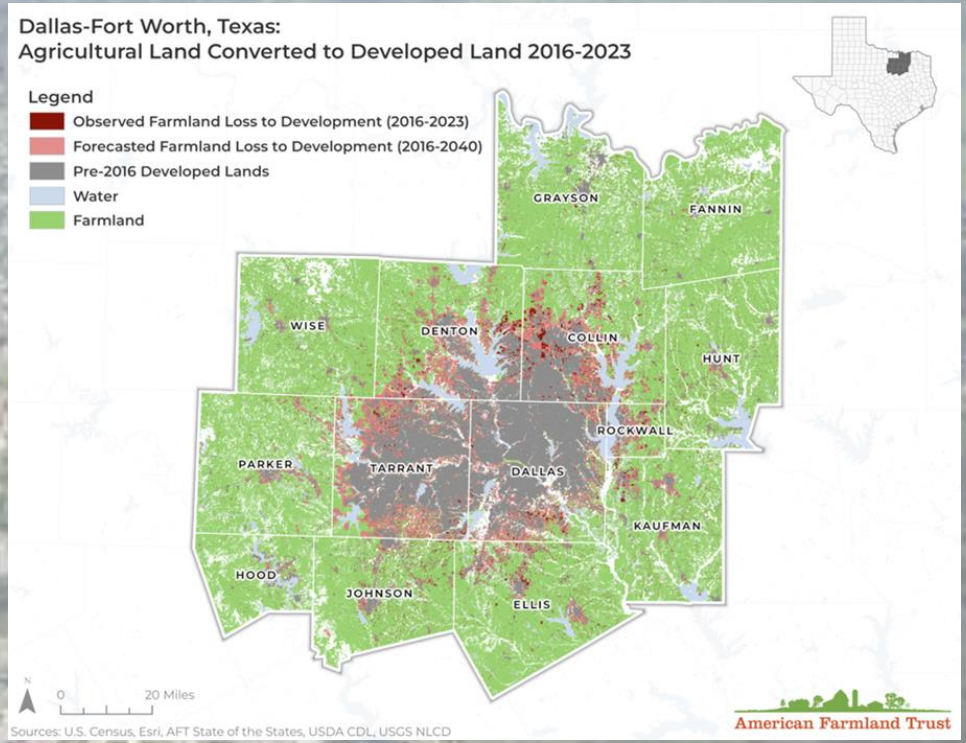
based on county averages.[1]

[1] *Census of Agriculture 2017*

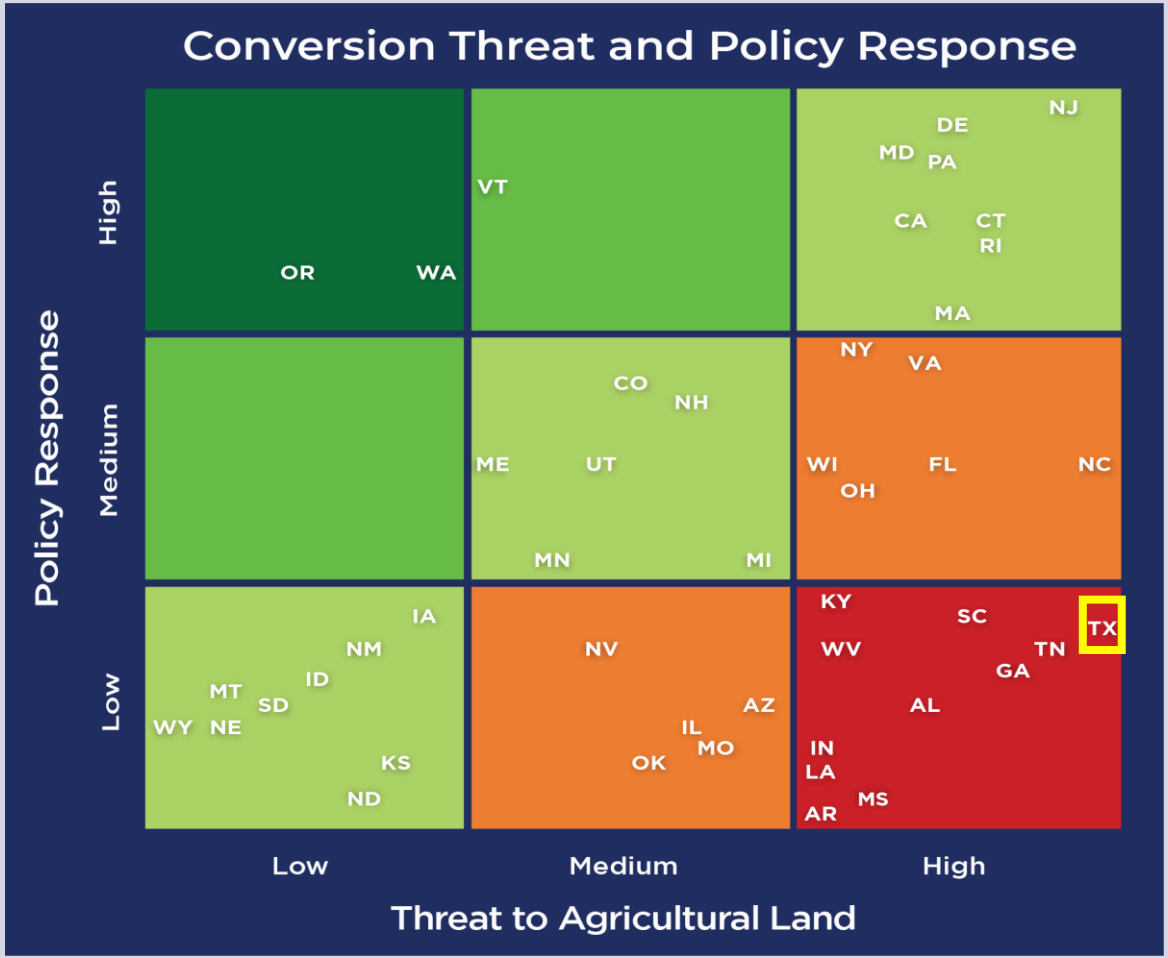
Conversion in Dallas and Surrounding Counties



Farmland conversion is occurring **49%** faster than forecasted for the Dallas-Fort Worth area.



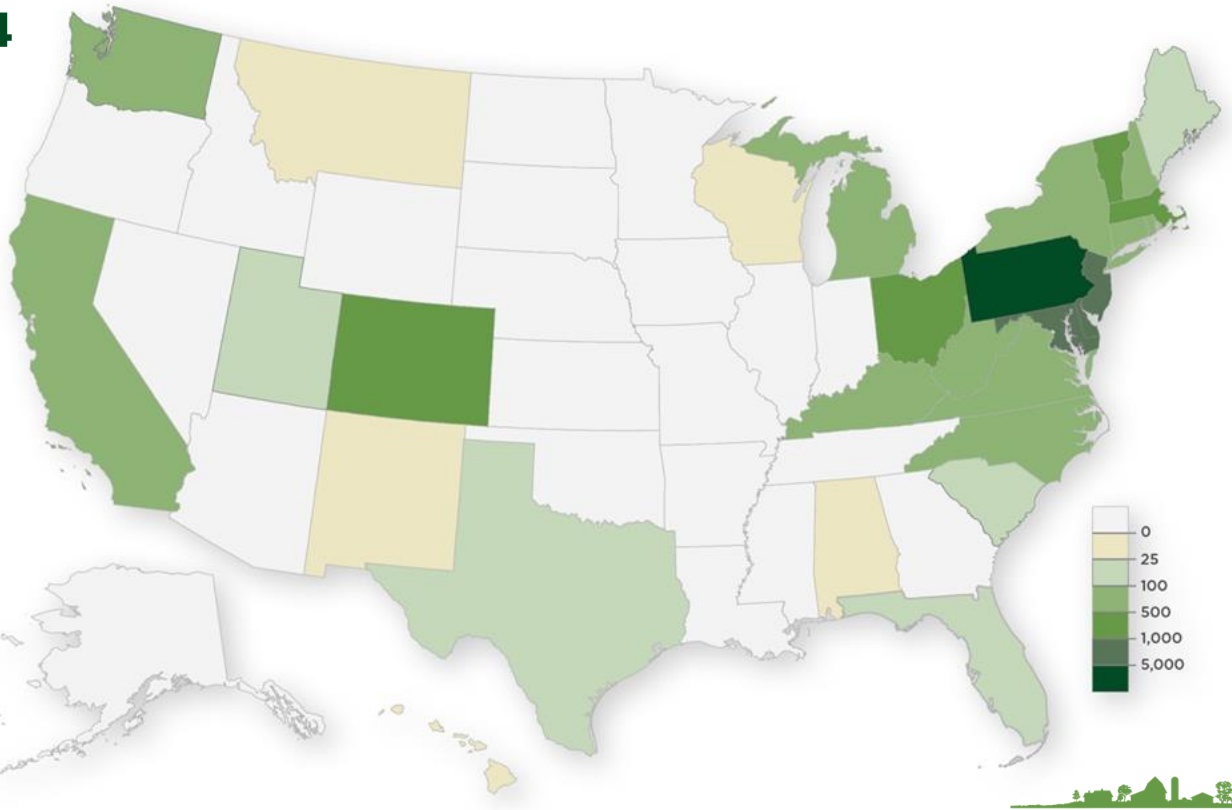
FARMS UNDER THREAT



Comparing Land Threat to Policy Response

Easements Acquired by State PACE Programs

As of January 2024



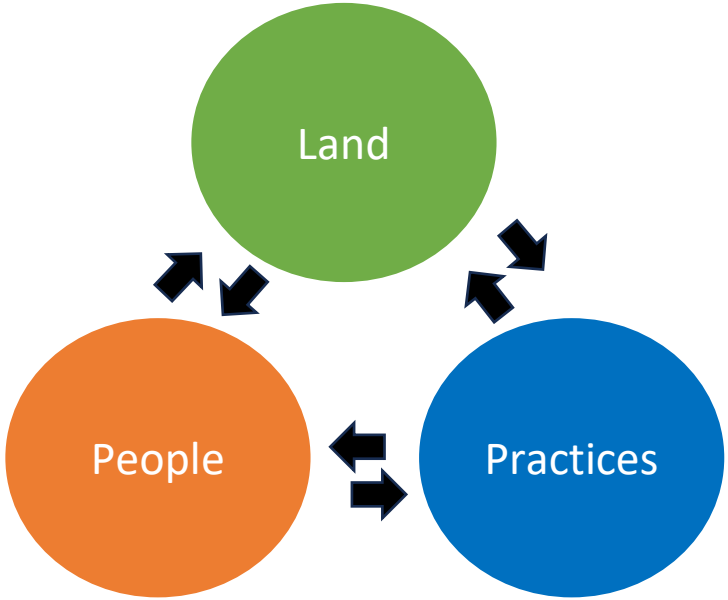
American Farmland Trust
FARMLAND INFORMATION CENTER

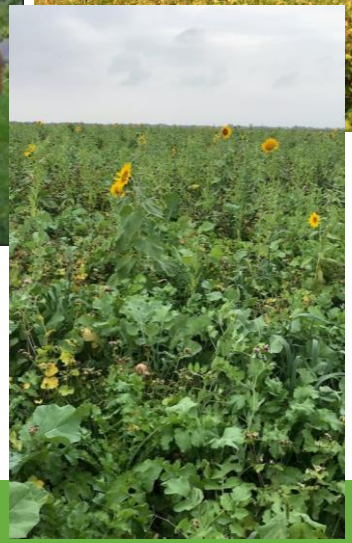
The Best PACE Programs

Do much more than **Protect Farmland** to ensure it will not be developed

- Advance **Farm Viability** & **Farming Practices** by:
  - Supporting reinvestment and expansion
  - Making farmland more affordable for new farmers
  - Helping ensure a critical mass of ag in one place
  - Increasing opportunities for innovative practices

It’s a system with many connections

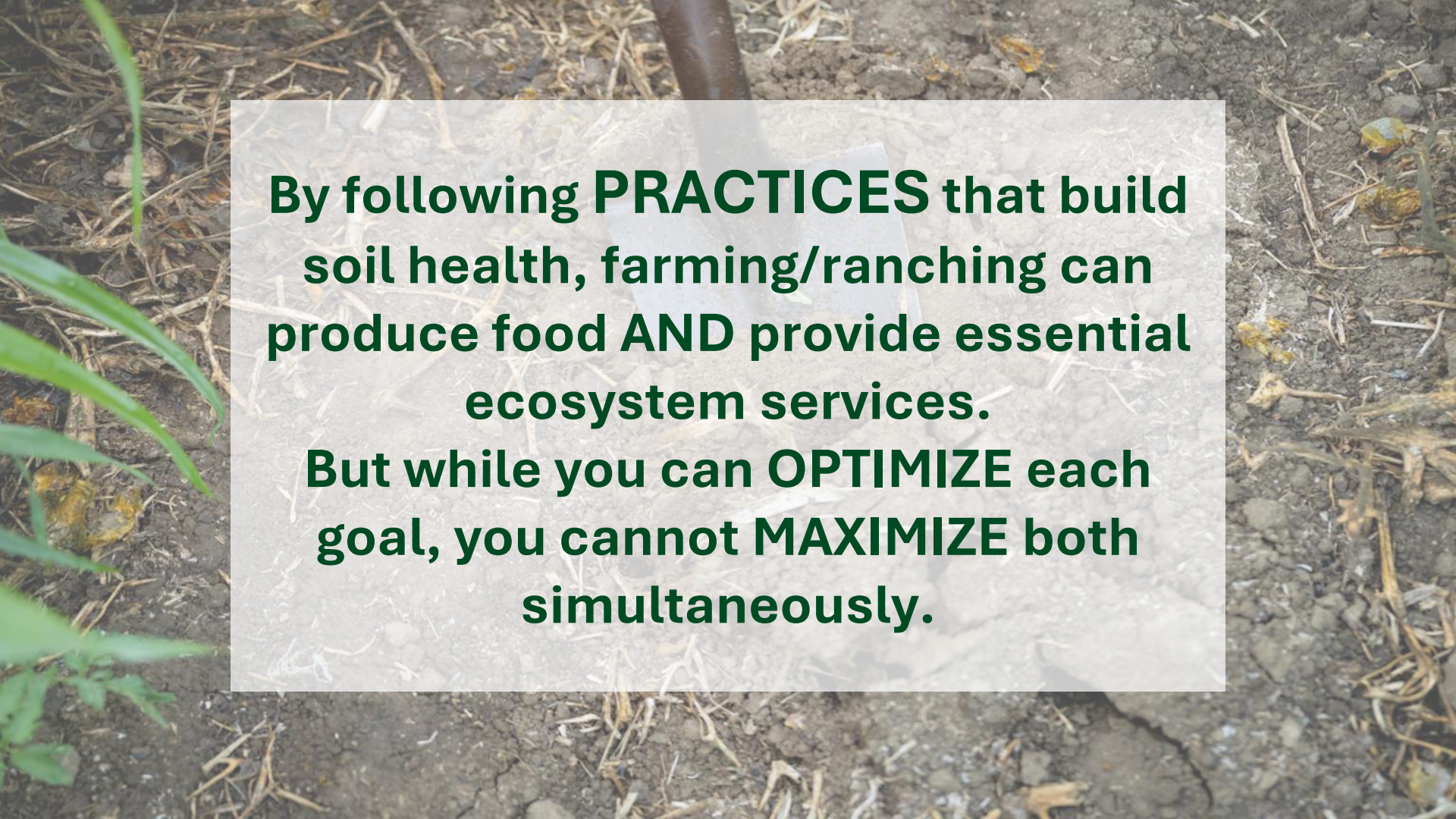




Sound soil health practices (aka conservation practices, regenerative practices, climate-smart practices) can reduce runoff and limit the need for inputs, while increasing resilience, productivity, and profitability.

Key Practices

- Intensive Rotational Grazing
- Cover Crops
- Nutrient Management
- Crop Rotations
- No-Till
- Silvo-Pasture


By following PRACTICES that build soil health, farming/ranching can produce food AND provide essential ecosystem services.
But while you can OPTIMIZE each goal, you cannot MAXIMIZE both simultaneously.

With every acre of farmland we lose, we not only lose the ability of that land to provide ecosystem services, but we also put more pressure on the remaining land to be farmed more intensely, further reducing environmental benefits.

PEOPLE: Retaining sufficient land to manage using sound practices requires that:

1. existing farmers and ranchers can make a living
2. we can attract and train the next generation.


1. We need farmland for food and other agricultural products, AND to help restore the planet.

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2. Every lost acre reduces land available for food and ecosystem services, and pressures remaining land to be farmed more intensely, often reducing environmental benefit.

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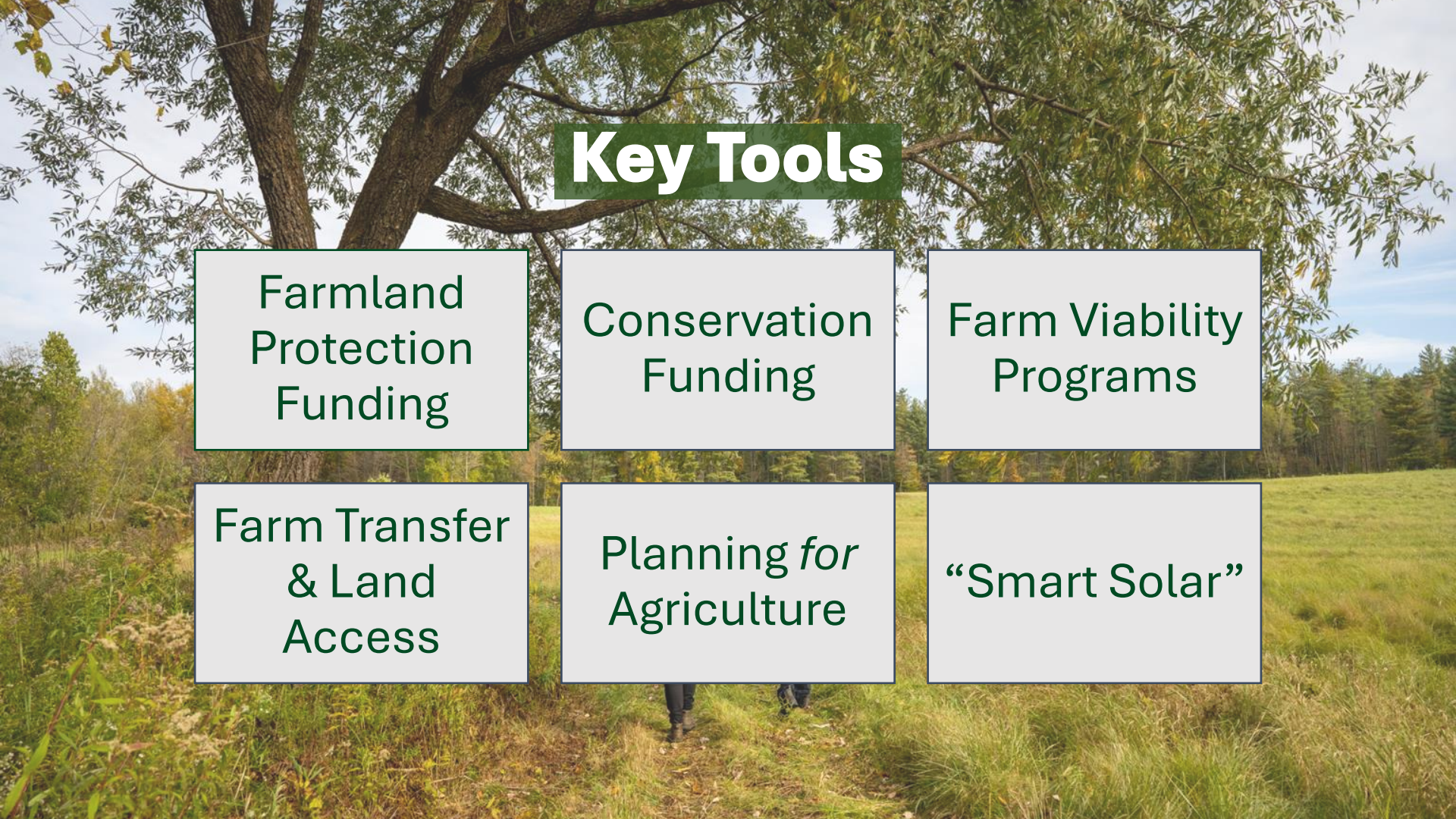
2. Every lost acre reduces land available for food and ecosystem services, and pressures remaining land to be farmed more intensely, often reducing environmental benefit.

3. Managing land wisely requires farmers who know their land intimately and who can afford to do what's right by the land.

The Bottom Line:

- We must retain enough farmland and manage it using the right practices.

- But we cannot hope to retain all the farmland we need, nor manage it wisely, without enough farmers and ranchers who have adequate know-how, access to land **and** financial resources.


Key Tools
Farmland Protection Funding
Conservation Funding
Farm Viability Programs
Farm Transfer & Land Access
Planning *for* Agriculture
“Smart Solar”

Reasons for Hope

We have many of the tools needed to protect the land, manage it well, support farmers and ranchers—current and new.

More and more people appreciate farming, farmers, and the food they grow.

Increasingly, investments--both public & private--respect the interconnections of land, practices, and people.

Now, let’s get to a greater scale!

Your efforts make a real difference!

American Farmland Trust is here to help.

American Farmland Trust

SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US


objective research
brain trust
pioneer
convener
American Farmland Trust
groundbreaker
thought leader